

Again, I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. It is now my honor to sign this good bill into law.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:09 a.m. in Room 450 in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, S. 544, approved July 29, was assigned Public Law No. 109-41.

Statement on Congressional Action on the “Energy Policy Act of 2005”

July 29, 2005

I applaud the Congress for today’s passage of an energy bill that will help secure our energy future and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The energy bill will increase conservation and efficiency, diversify our energy supply with alternative and renewable sources, expand domestic energy production in environmentally sensitive ways, and modernize our electricity infrastructure. Four years ago, I called for a national energy plan to address our Nation’s energy needs for the 21st century. The bipartisan energy bill passed today will give America a comprehensive national energy strategy for the first time in more than a decade and is critically important to our long-term national and economic security. I look forward to signing it into law.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 23

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to express his condolences on the recent terrorist attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh.

July 24

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with cyclist Lance Armstrong to congratulate him on winning a record seventh straight Tour de France.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, they attended a White House tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Members of Congress to discuss energy legislation.

July 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to the National Gallery of Art where they toured the Gilbert Stuart exhibition.

Later in the morning, the President returned to the White House. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with Presidential Rank Award recipients.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a meeting with African American leaders.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jennifer L. Dorn to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. Boyden Gray to be the U.S. Representative to the European Union with the Rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard H. Jones to be Ambassador to Israel.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., to be Ambassador to Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Darlene F. Williams to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Policy Development and Research).

The President announced his appointment of Michele A. Davis as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications and Global Outreach.

July 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a signing ceremony for Proclamation 7915—Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Later in the morning, the President met with local officials from the Babil Province in Iraq.

Also in the morning, in his private dining room, the President viewed the launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*.

In the afternoon, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President made remarks to the Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security. Later, he had a meeting with Republican Members of the House of Representatives to discuss the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

July 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then went to the Capitol where he met with the House Republican Conference to discuss legislative priorities. Later, he returned to the White House.

Later in the morning, the President participated in a photo opportunity with District of Columbia Metropolitan Motorcycle Escort officers.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with Navy Anderson, the 2005 national ambassador for the March of Dimes. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with 2005 American Legion Boys Nation and Girls Nation participants.

The President announced his intention to nominate Keith E. Gottfried to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bertha K. Madras to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark S. Schneider to be Commissioner of Education Statistics at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alfred Hoffman, Jr., to be Ambassador to Portugal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sandra Frances Ashworth, Jan Cellucci, and Diane Rivers to be members of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

July 28

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to discuss Pakistan-U.S. relations, counterterrorism efforts, and regional issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador to discuss the House of Representatives action on the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with the President's Management Council.

Later, in the State Dining Room, the President had a meeting and participated in a photo opportunity with members of the National Future Farmers of America Organization State Presidents' Conference.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley of Northern Ireland.

The President announced his intention to nominate George M. Gray to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Research and Development).

The President announced his intention to nominate Christine M. Griffin to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Emil W. Henry, Jr., to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Financial Institutions).

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathryn Higgins to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate William E. Kovacic to be Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barry F. Lowenkron to be Assistant

Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward McGaffigan, Jr., to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate James F.X. O'Gara to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Young, Jr., to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roland Arnall to be Ambassador to the Netherlands.

The President announced his intention to nominate William McCormick to be Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa.

The President announced his intention to designate John F. Clark as Acting Director of the United States Marshals Service.

The President announced his intention to designate Preston M. Geren as Acting Secretary of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas E. Harvey as Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

July 29

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams of Northern Ireland and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Naomi Churchill Earp to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Joseph Henke to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

The President announced his intention to nominate Franklin L. Lavin to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

The President announced his intention to nominate William F. Tuerk to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laurence Francis Rooney to be Ambassador to the Holy See.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terry Neese to be Director of the Mint at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Hofflund to be a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced his intention to nominate Josette Sheeran Shiner to be U.S. Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; U.S. Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank; U.S. Alternate Governor for the African Development Bank; U.S. Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank; U.S. Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and U.S. Alternate Governor of the African Development Fund.

The President announced his intention to designate Josette Sheeran Shiner as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 25

Jennifer L. Dorn, of Nebraska, to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 2 years, vice Robert B. Holland III, term expired.

C. Boyden Gray, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.